

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2137

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S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 5481

EXDIS SALT

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O.11652 XGDSI

TAGS PARM

SUBJ COMMENTS ON OCTOBER 16 MEETING (SALT TWO-311)

1. AT MEETING TODAY SEMENOV MADE VERY PDESTRIAN STATEMENT SUPPORTING PREAMBLE AND ARTICLE I OF THEIR DRAFT. I MADE NO STATEMENT IN MEETING, BUT IN SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE CONVERSATION ASKED HIM WHEN HE WAS GOING TO GET DOWN TO CASES ON THE SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS OF THEIR DRAFT. HE PROMISED TO DO SO AT SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.

2. IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT SEMENOV MADE IT CLEAR THEY WERE RELEGATING REDUCTIONS INTO THE FAR DISTANT FUTURE AND DEFENDED THE INCLUSION IN THE PERMANENT AGREEMENT OF ALL "STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE" ARMS. (OF COURSE USING "STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE" IN THEIR SENSE OF INCLUDING FBS). AGAIN THE THEME CREPT IN THAT WITHDRAWAL OF FBS WOULD BE GOOD FOR PEACE AND WHAT WAS GOOD FOR PEACE WOULD BE GOOD FOR OUR ALLIES.

3. IN OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATION I SOMEWHAT CHIDED HIM ON CONFINING HIMSELF TODAY TO THE PREAMBLE TO THE DRAFT, SAYING THAT I DID NOT THINK THIS WAS GOING TO BE A MAJOR ISSUE BETWEEN US AND SAID THAT I WAS STILL LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS GETTING DOWN TO RATIONALES FOR THEIR POSITIONS ON WHAT THEY WELL KNEW WERE THE MAJOR ISSUES. I SAID THAT THEIR DRAFT PROVIDED FOR CONTINUA-

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TION OF PERMANENT AGREEMENT NOT ONLY OF THE HIGHLY UNEQUAL NUMBERS

AND THROW-WEIGHT OF ICBMS AND NUMBERS OF SLBMS, BUT ALSO PROVIDED FOR THEM LARGER NUMBERS OF MIRVS, AS WELL AS FOR THE COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF WHAT THEY TERM FBS. IN ADDITION, IT PROVIDED FOR TERMINATION OF US ONGOING PROGRAMS OF TRIDENT AND B-1, WHILE SAYING NOTHING OF ONGOING SOVIET ICBM PROGRAMS. I SAID I WAS NOT MENTIONING THESE MATTERS AT THIS TIME IN TERMS OF ATTACKING THEIR DRAFT, BUT RATHER IN TERMS OF MY DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND THEIR RATIONALE FOR TAKING THESE POSITIONS IN THEIR DRAFT. I SAID IT WOULD BE EASY FOR ME TO ATTACK THEIR DRAFT OR TO PUT FORWARD US COUNTER-PROPOSALS CONSISTENT WITH OUR POSITIONS, BUT BEFORE TAKING A POSITION ON THEIR DRAFT I VERY MUCH NEEDED TO KNOW AND WOULD LIKE TO TRANSMIT TO WASHINGTON THEIR RATIONALES FOR THEIR POSITIONS. I SAID THAT IN THE MEANWHILE IT WOULD BE EASY FOR ME TO MAKE SPEECHES TO FILL IN TIME AT OUR MEETINGS, BUT I DO NOT THINK THIS WOULD BE USEFUL AND WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT HE INTENDED TO DO. HE SAID HE THOUGHT MY POSITION WAS UNDERSTANDABLE AND THAT AT FUTURE MEETINGS HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTIONS I HAD RAISED. (HE DID NOT CHALLENGE MY OUTLINE OF THEIR POSITION.)

4. THERE WAS NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED REFERENCE BY EITHER OF US TO THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

5. CORRECTING OBVIOUS OVERSIGHT IN THEIR DRAFT, DURING THE COURSE OF OUR PRIVATE MEETING HE FORMALLY HANDED ME A REVISED DRAFT OF ARTICLE VI, WHICH ADDS ON LIQUIDATION OF SUBMARINE BASES IN THIRD COUNTRIES AT THE SAME TIME AGREED UPON FOR WITHDRAWALS OF ATTACK CARRIERS AND SUBMARINES BEYOND AGREED LIMITS. (SEE SEPTTEL.)

6. I HAVE LAID THE BASE FOR AGAIN MAKING NO STATEMENT AT OCTOBER 19 MEETING, WHILE LISTENING TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY, AND INTEND TO FOLLOW THAT COURSE. JOHNSON

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